

Doctor Strange[®] DAMNATION

NICK SPENCER - DONNY CATES - ROD REIS



#1

MARVEL

HotComic.net

LAS VEGAS.

SO THERE WAS A WAR.

I SPENT THE WORST OF IT STUMBLING AROUND THE DARKNESS, TRYING TO FIND SOME LIGHT.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THE END THAT WE REALIZED ALL WE'D LOST.

AN ENTIRE CITY CLAIMED BY FIRE, WIPED CLEAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

BECAUSE WE DIDN'T STOP IT. BECAUSE WE WEREN'T **STRONG ENOUGH** TO STOP IT.

IN THE AFTERMATH, ALL WE COULD DO WAS MOURN--

--AND PROMISE WE'D NEVER FAIL THEM LIKE THAT AGAIN.

WE REMEMBER YOU

THAT'S MY OATH TO YOU--THAT WE'LL STRIVE TO REMAIN UNITED AND VIGILANT. THAT WE WILL HONOR THOSE WE LOST BY PROTECTING THE FUTURE--

--EVEN IF WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.

DON'T BE SUCH A PESSIMIST, FALCON--

THE EVENTS OF THIS ISSUE TAKE PLACE BEFORE THOSE IN **MIGHTY THOR #703**--NICK

HotComic.net



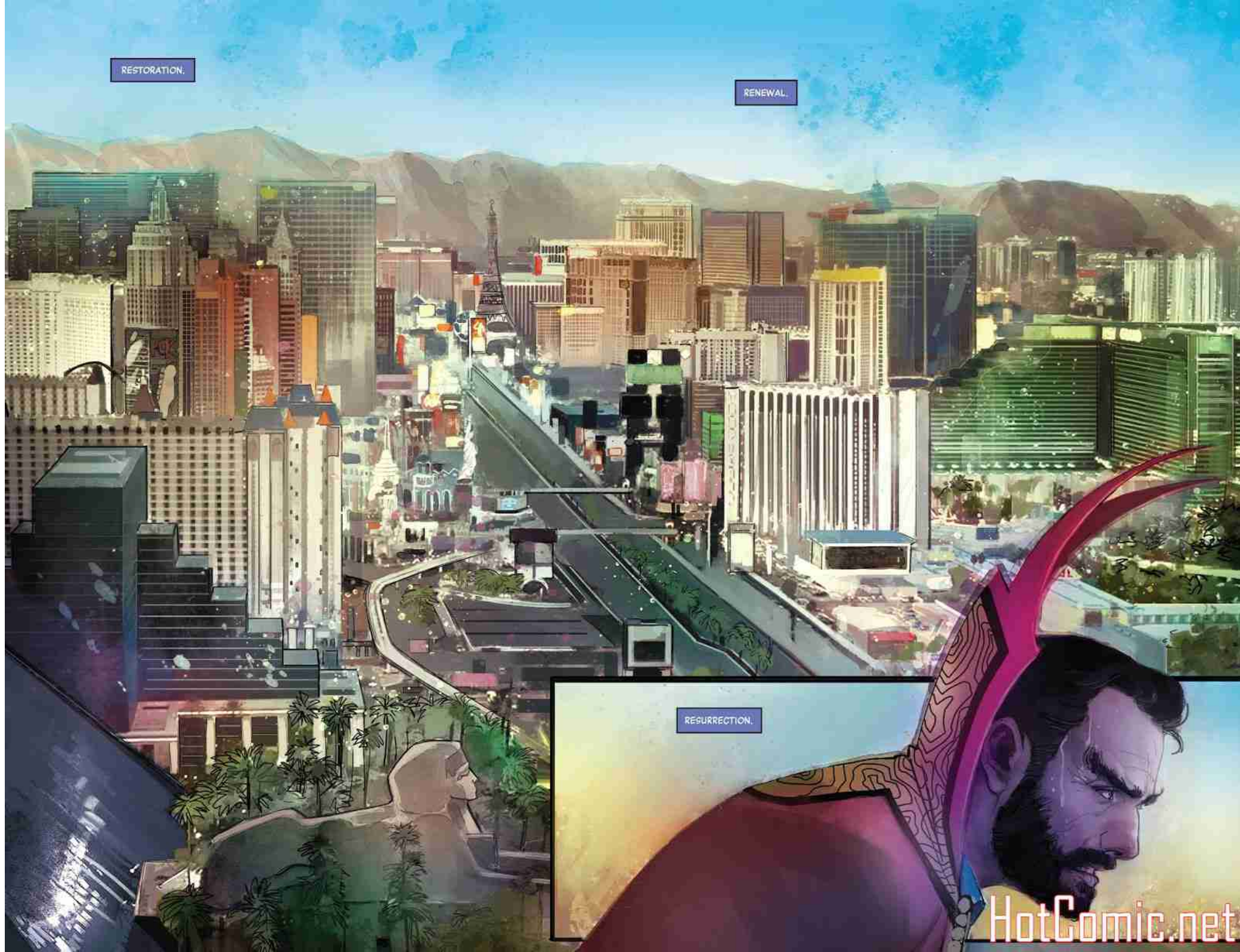


RESTORATION.

RENEWAL.

RESURRECTION.

HotComic.net





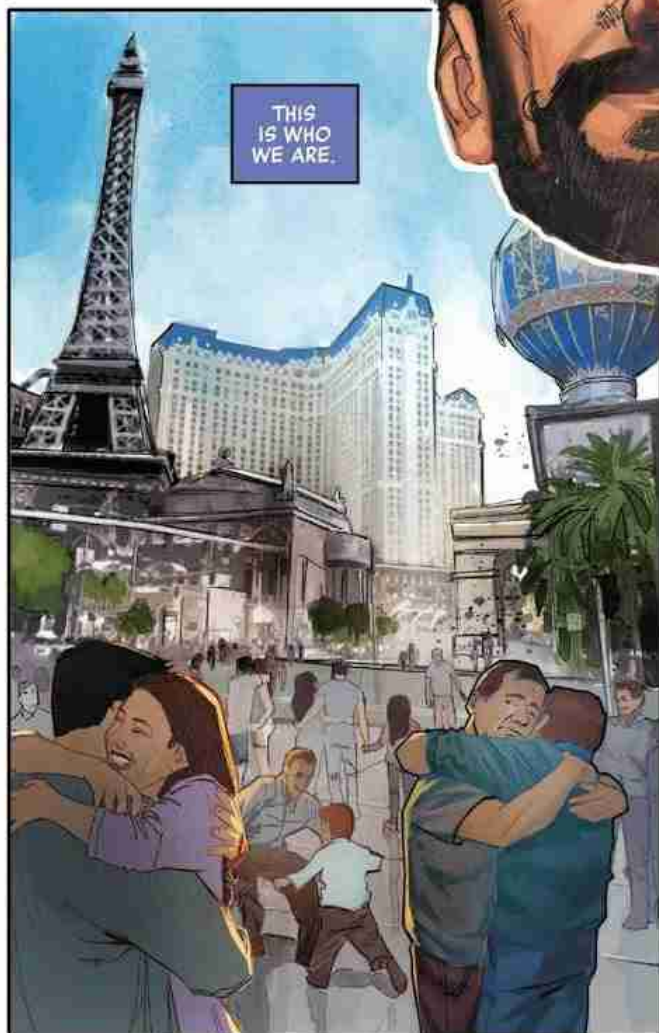
FAMILIES
BROUGHT BACK
TOGETHER.



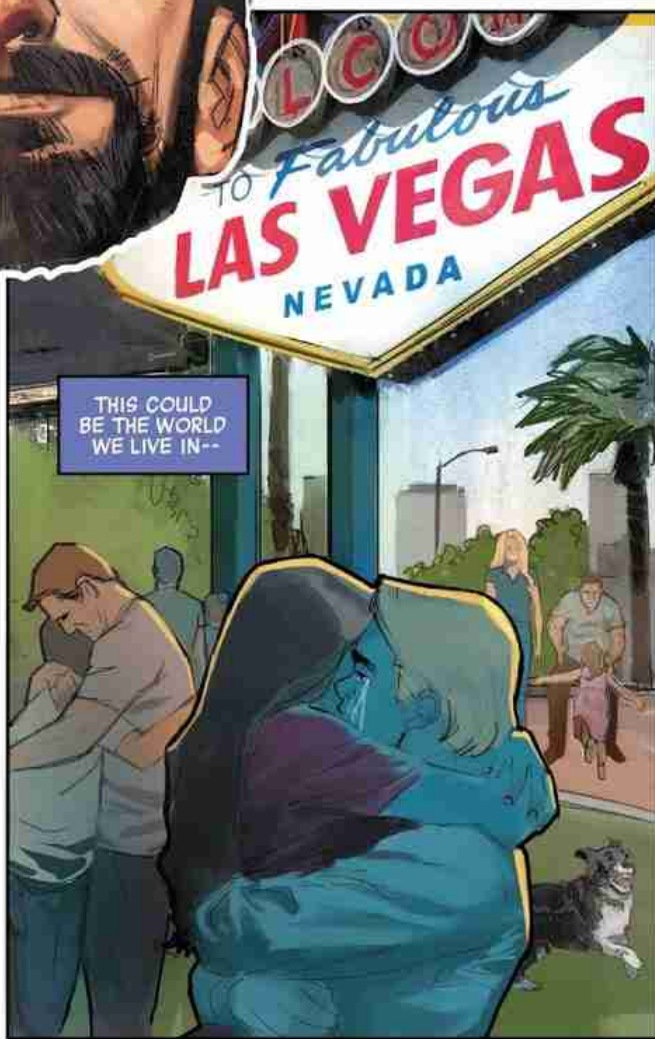
PEOPLE HEALED,
REJOICING.

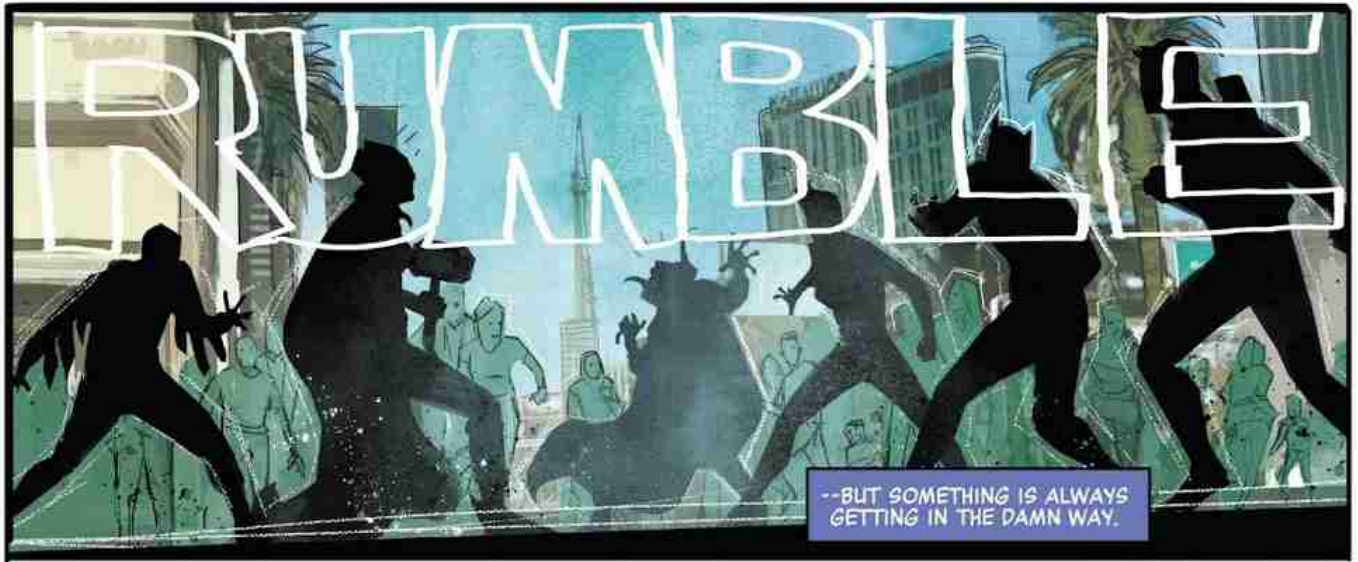


THIS
IS WHO
WE ARE.



THIS COULD
BE THE WORLD
WE LIVE IN--







WELCOME,
WELCOME, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN--

--TO SOMETHING
TRULY MONUMENTAL--
HISTORICALLY MOMENTOUS--
THE GRANDEST OF GRAND
OPENINGS--

--PANDEMONIUM
PRODUCTIONS AND
YOUR MORTAL SOUL
ARE PROUD TO PRESENT
THE NEWEST ADDITION
TO THE WORLD-
FAMOUS VEGAS
STRIP--

GRAND OPENING HOTEL INFERNO

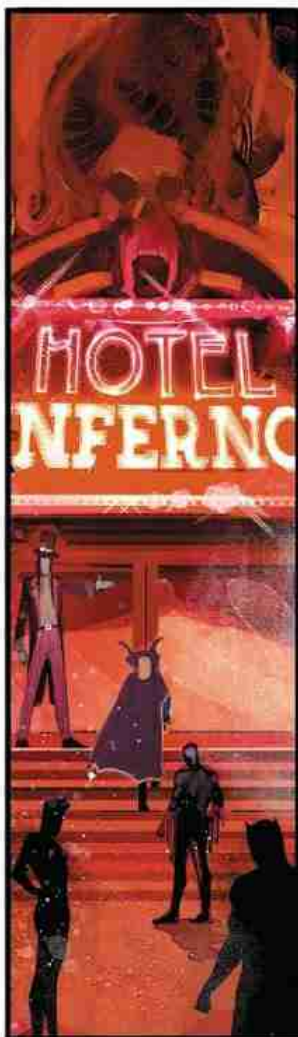
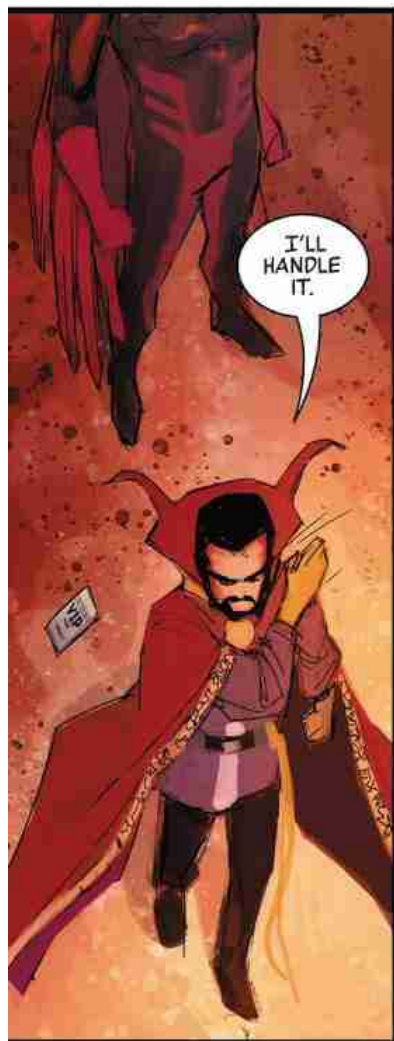
--THE HOTEL
INFERNO!!!

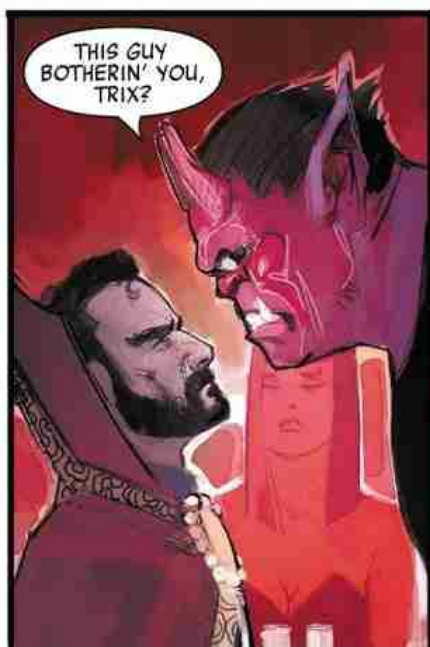
WE KNOW
HOW MUCH YOU
LOVE GAMES OF CHANCE,
SO TAKE A CHANCE ON US!
WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO HAVE
SUCH A SORDID, SINFUL,
WICKED TIME--

--WHY, YOU
WON'T EVEN NOTICE
YOU'VE SPENT EONS TRAPPED
IN ETERNAL DAMNATION/ BECAUSE
REALLY, WHO NEEDS SALVATION
WITH DRINK SPECIALS
LIKE THESE!

SO COME
ONE, COME
ALL...

...OR
MAYBE
JUST ONE
FOR NOW.









WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!



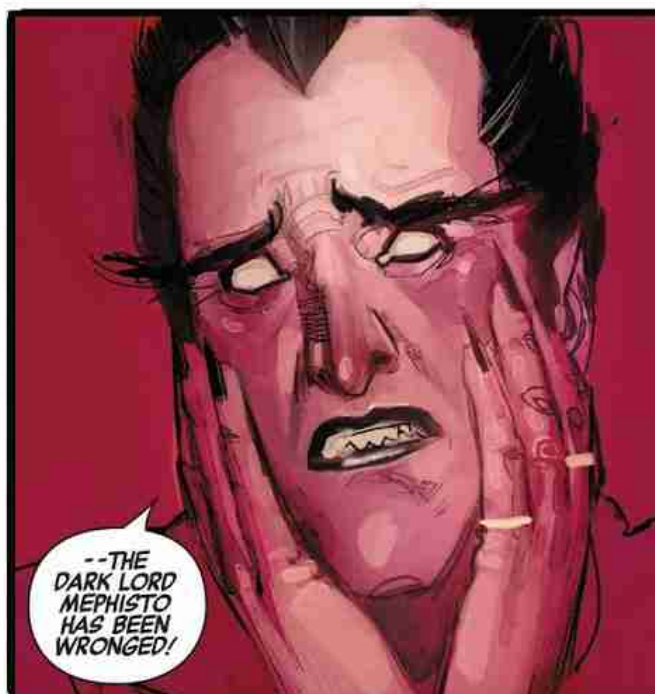
WHOA, WHOA, WHOA--

--YOU MISAPPREHEND THE SITUATION, MY DEAR DOCTOR. I HAD NO HAND IN THIS! WHY, I'M THE VICTIM HERE!



I'D SAY YOU'RE LYING, BUT WE BOTH ALREADY KNOW THAT. HELL, I'M PRETTY SURE YOU INVENTED LYING.

FLATTERER. BUT SADLY, THESE LIPS ARE FORCED BY NO CHOICE OF MY OWN TO BRING FORTH THE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH (WEIRD AFTERTASTE). AS IMPOSSIBLE AS IT MIGHT SOUND--



--THE DARK LORD MEPHISTO HAS BEEN WRONGED!



HERE, SEE FOR YOURSELF--

GET YOUR ARM OFF ME.

SSH. TALKING DURING MOVIES IS A SIN, YOU KNOW.

"I WAS MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS, LIKE ALWAYS. DOING MY THANKLESS JOB."

"I MEAN, I'LL ADMIT, THINGS HAD GOTTEN A LITTLE..."

"STALE."

"BUT A DEAL'S A DEAL, RIGHT? SOMEBODY'S GOTTA PUNISH THE WICKED. STILL, IT WAS A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE--"

"--WHEN THE MOST WICKED PLACE ON YOUR WRETCHED PLANET JUST SUDDENLY DROPPED INTO OUR LAPS, WHOLE CLOTH!"

"I GUESS THE POWERS THAT BE TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE SHEER NUMBER OF ALL THOSE SOULS AND DECIDED IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH PAPERWORK. WELL, BELIEVE ME--"

"--I'M NOT GONNA LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH."

"ME AND MY BOYS MADE OURSELVES RIGHT AT HOME. SPEND UNTOLD MILLENNIA TORTURING SOULS, PLAYING THEM SLOTS MAKES FOR A NICE LITTLE PALATE CLEANSER."

"OR MAYBE YOU JUST LEARN TO MULTITASK."

"EITHER-OR, WE'D FOUND THE KEY TO ETERNAL HAPPINESS, WHICH IS IRONIC, SURE. UNTIL--"

"TRAGEDY! AS WE FOUND OUR NEWLY CLAIMED PROPERTY TAKEN BACK FROM US, BY YOU!"

"NOW DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'LL ROLL THE DICE PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE--"



--BUT THIS EARTHLY PLANE! UGH. LOOK AT ALL THIS CHEAP TRASH. IT'S BENEATH ME. ALSO, I CAN'T STAND THE HEAT.

AND THAT'S NOT EVEN GETTING INTO THE WORST PART--



"THE PEOPLE."

GETTING PRETTY CROWDED DOWN THERE.

THIS IS ABSURD. THIS WHOLE AREA SHOULD BE SEALED OFF.

INDEED. THE THREAT OF THAT TOWER STILL LOOMS.

"--BUT THE MAYOR WASN'T HEARING IT."

ER, LISTEN, FALCON--OR IS IT CAPTAIN FALCON NOW? I DUNNO. BUT I HEARD DOCTOR STRANGE SAY HE WAS HANDLING IT. AND HE'S A DOCTOR! I'M GONNA LISTEN TO HIM ON THIS ONE.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY ARE BEING REUNITED WITH THEIR LOVED ONES. OUR WHOLE DANG TOWN JUST ROSE UP FROM THE GROUND! MY CONSTITUENTS WANNA CELEBRATE!

AND THAT'S A LOT OF VOTES THAT JUST CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD.

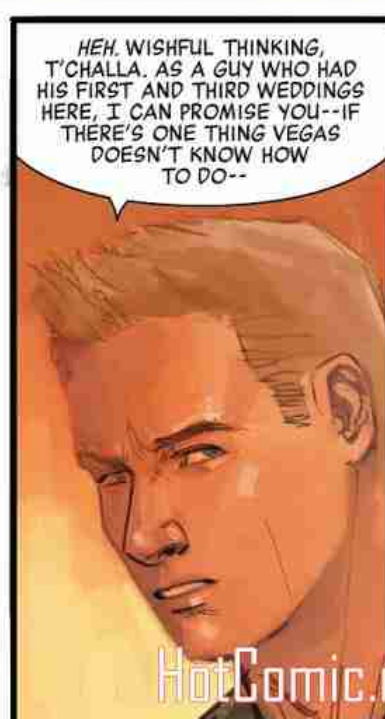
BELIEVE ME, FOLKS, I TRIED--



SO ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE STEPHEN IS IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION--

YOU MEAN THE SAME STEPHEN WHO CAUSED THE SITUATION?

WE MUST PRAY THE STREETS STAY QUIET.



HEH. WISHFUL THINKING, T'CHALLA. AS A GUY WHO HAD HIS FIRST AND THIRD WEDDINGS HERE, I CAN PROMISE YOU--IF THERE'S ONE THING VEGAS DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DO--





MAYBE
IT'S NOT
SO BAD HERE,
AFTER ALL.

MAYBE I SHOULD
LEARN TO EMBRACE
ITS POTENTIAL, YEAH?
LOTTA ROOM FOR
GROWTH--



"--ESPECIALLY IN
MY INDUSTRY."

I--I DON'T
NORMALLY DO
THIS KIND OF THING...
I MEAN, I HAVE A
FAMILY--I JUST
FIGURE, IF I GOT
A SECOND CHANCE
AT LIFE, MAYBE I
SHOULD LIVE A
LITTLE--



DON'T
ACT SO
SURPRISED, GARY.
CAN'T BELIEVE YOU
THOUGHT A LITTLE
THING LIKE DYING
WOULD CANCEL
OUT YOUR
DEBTS.

UNFF!

YOU
SURE THIS
IS A GOOD
IDEA?

BET HOUSE

YOU KIDDING?
RIGHT NOW THE COPS
ARE SO BUSY DEALING
WITH THE RESURRECTIONS,
NO WAY THEY CARE
ABOUT SOME SMASH-
AND-GRAB--

YEAH. AND IF
EVERYTHING REALLY
DID COME BACK--THAT
MEANS ALL THE SAFES
ARE FULL.

"AH,
SIN--"

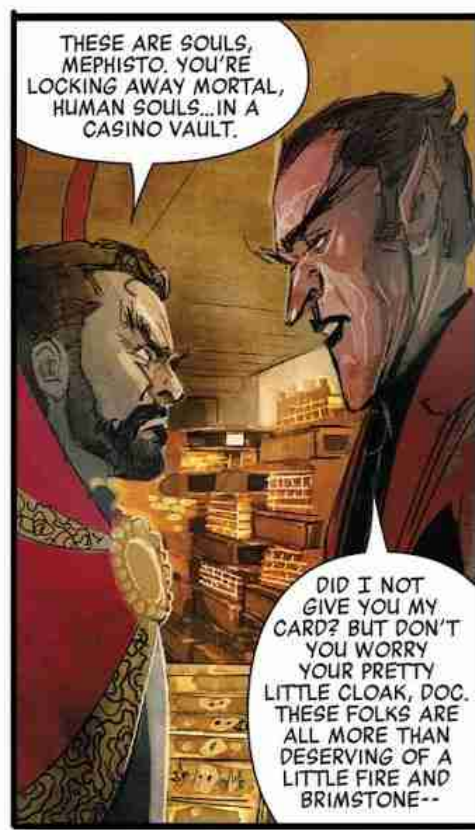




NICE, RIGHT? GO ON, KEEP ONE FOR YOURSELF. A LITTLE THANK YOU TO OUR FIRST CUSTOMER.



HOARY HOSTS OF...



THESE ARE SOULS, MEPHISTO. YOU'RE LOCKING AWAY MORTAL, HUMAN SOULS...IN A CASINO VAULT.

DID I NOT GIVE YOU MY CARD? BUT DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE CLOAK, DOC. THESE FOLKS ARE ALL MORE THAN DESERVING OF A LITTLE FIRE AND BRIMSTONE--



FRED! YOU FORGOT TO FEED THE METER!

AW, LEAVE IT, DORY. TODAY'S BASICALLY A HOLIDAY, RIGHT? WE'RE GONNA MISS THE BIG PARTY. 'SIDES, IT'S ONLY TEN MINUTES TO--

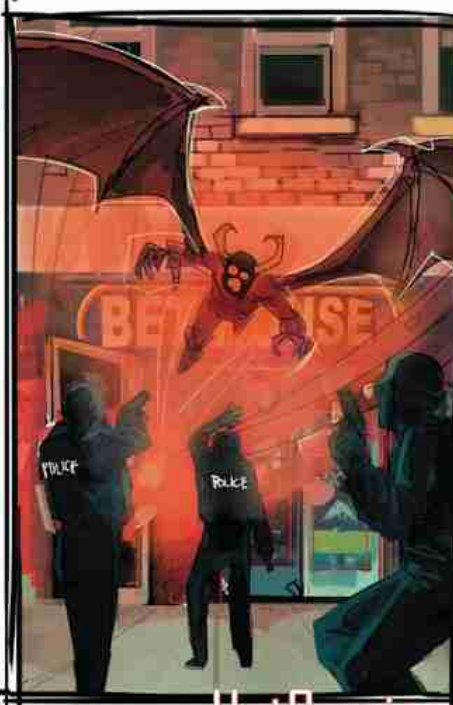
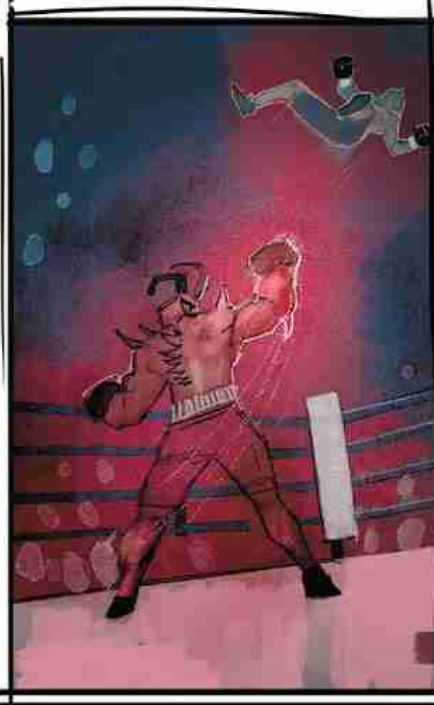
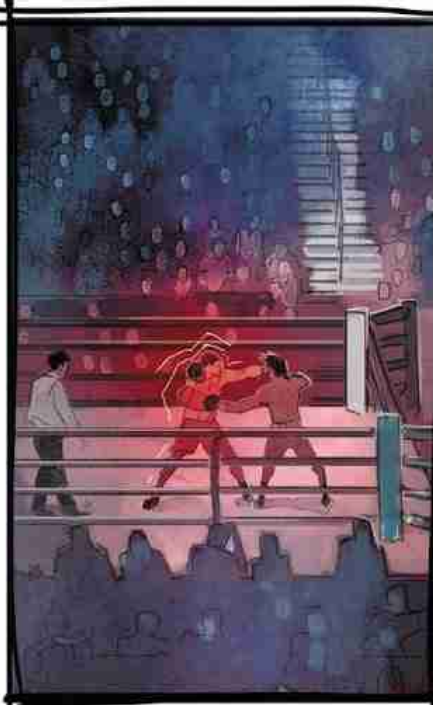


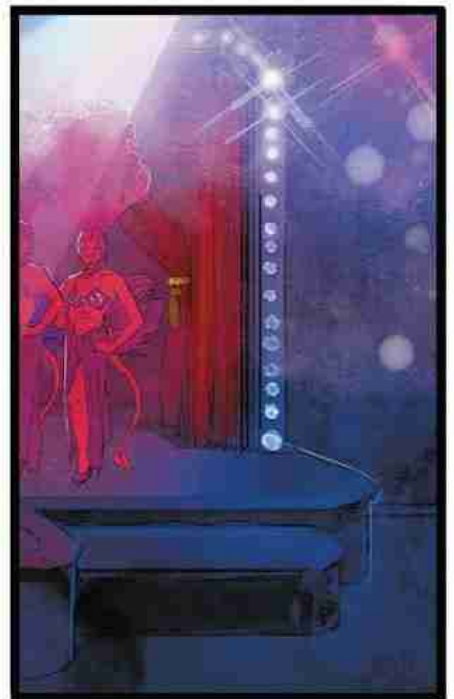
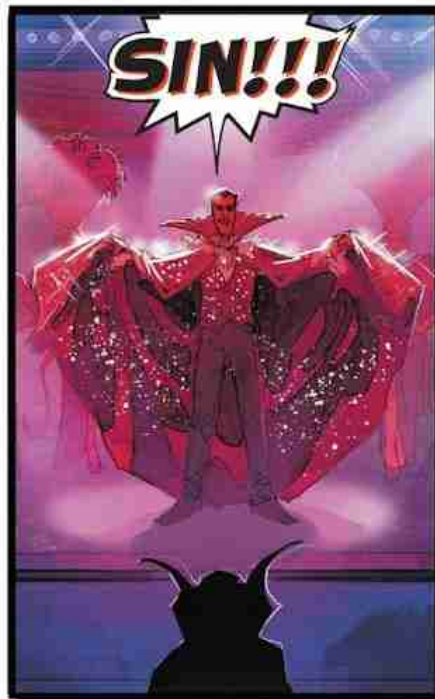
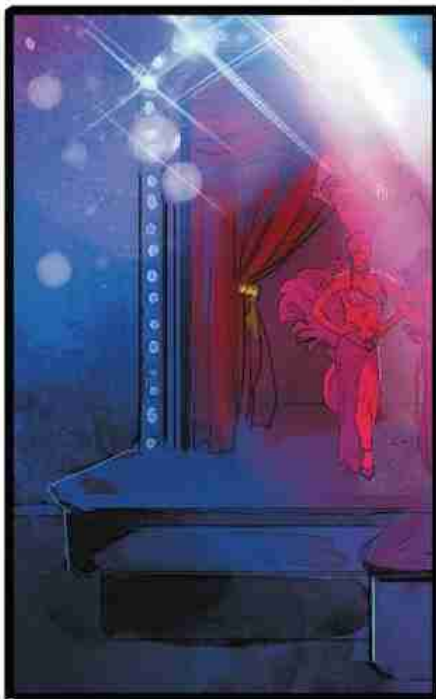
--AGGGHHH!!!

FREEDDD!!!



WELL, MOSTLY DESERVING. IT'S ALL SUBJECTIVE, REALLY.





"--THERE ARE STILL HEROES."



THEM?! YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. HAVE YOU SEEN THEIR RÉSUMÉS? IF ANYBODY IS GOING TO END UP IN MY REALM SOMEDAY, IT'S THEM--

THEY MAY HAVE MADE MISTAKES. BUT THEY ALWAYS COME THROUGH IN THE END.

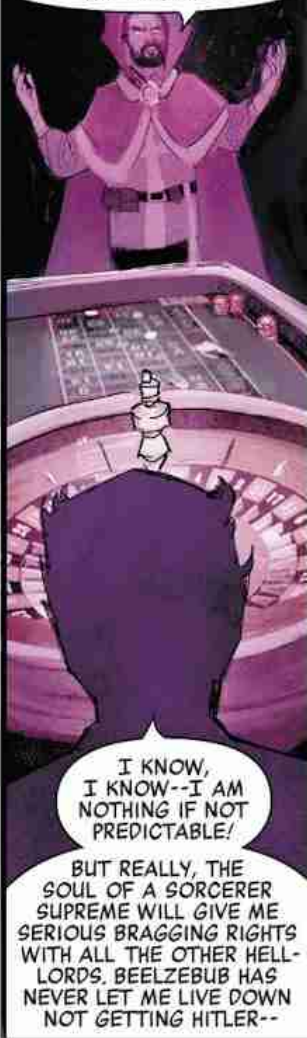
HMM, WELL IF YOU'RE SO CONFIDENT ABOUT THAT--



--PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO MAKE A FRIENDLY WAGER.



YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS-- THIS? AGAIN?



I KNOW, I KNOW--I AM NOTHING IF NOT PREDICTABLE!

BUT REALLY, THE SOUL OF A SORCERER SUPREME WILL GIVE ME SERIOUS BRAGGING RIGHTS WITH ALL THE OTHER HELL-LORDS. BEELZEBUB HAS NEVER LET ME LIVE DOWN NOT GETTING HITLER--

--BUT COME ON-- THIS IS YOUR KIND OF GAME. GOOD VERSUS EVIL. TO THE VICTOR (ME) GOES--

MY SOUL. AND IF I--

IT'S BACK TO MY REALM.

AND THAT VAULT GETS EMPTIED.

AGREED.



...THEN I'M IN.







FIGHT.

HAWKEYE--
REMAIN CALM--

CALM?
WHY WOULD
I BE--



AGGH!
IT BURNS!!!

WAIT--IT'S
HAPPENING
TO ME,
TOO--

WHAT
THE HELL IS
THIS?!



YOU
SAID IT,
PANTHER.



"WELCOME ABOARD."



SO, YES,
STEPHEN STRANGE,
LET US PLAY OUR
LITTLE GAME. YOUR
CONFIDENCE DOES NOT
SURPRISE ME IN
THE LEAST.

BUT EVEN
YOU SHOULD
REMEMBER WHAT
THEY SAY AROUND
THESE PARTS TO
THOSE WHO FEEL
LUCKY. HOW DOES
IT GO AGAIN?
OH, YES...

"...THE HOUSE
ALWAYS WINS."

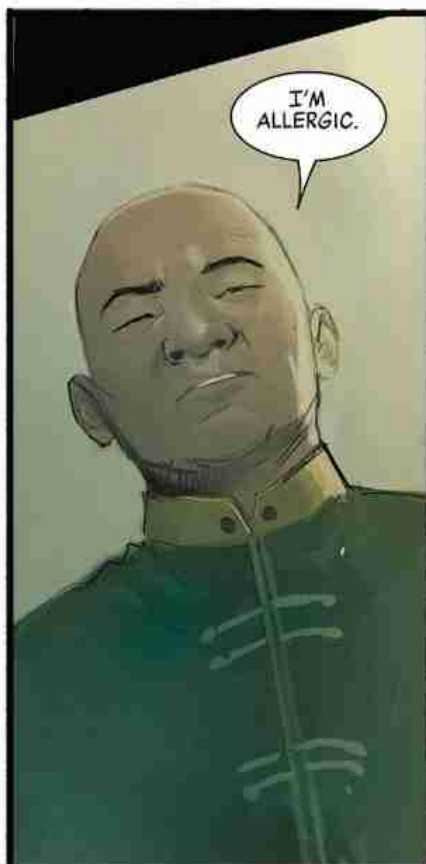
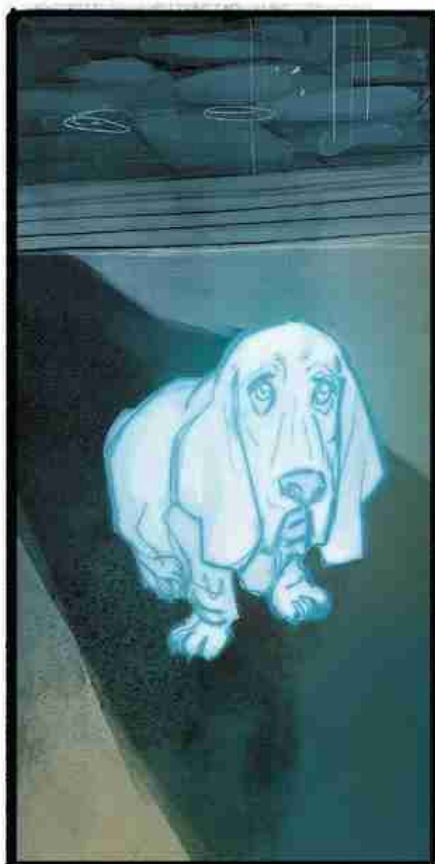


THIS FAILED ENGINEER AND
EXPLORER ACHIEVED A
SECOND SHOT AT FAME
WITH HIS POPULAR SERIES
OF ONLINE MOVIE REVIEWS,
"HARVEY IN THE CAVE."

WHO IS
THE MOLE
MAN.

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH







UNBELIEVABLE.
THE ARROGANCE.
THE HUBRIS.
IT'S--

PRETTY
TYPICAL FOR
HIM?

PRECISELY.



NOW MEPHISTO IS
LOOSE ON EARTH, AND
BRINGING HELL WITH HIM.
IT WILL NOT ABATE
WITH THIS CITY.

HEY, I
TRIED TO
TELL THE DOC
IT WAS A BAD
IDEA. BUT
NOBODY LISTENS
TO THE GUY
THAT POOPS
ON YOUR
LAWN, YOU
KNOW?

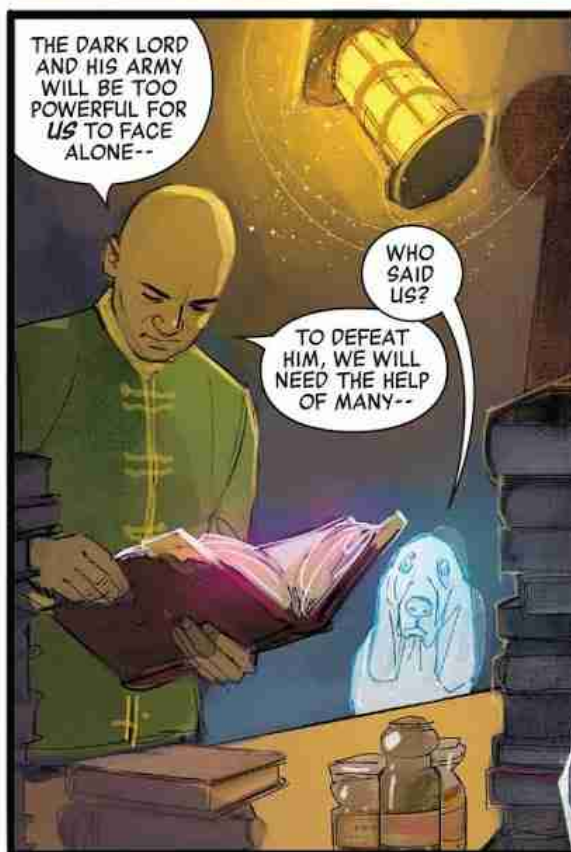
HMM...



THIS
TELEPORTER,
LONG THOUGHT
TO BE A DOG,
MAY ACTUALLY
BE A--

OOH, I KNOW
THIS ONE. HEY,
WHERE YOU
GOING?

COME
WITH ME.



THE DARK LORD
AND HIS ARMY
WILL BE TOO
POWERFUL FOR
US TO FACE
ALONE--

WHO
SAID
US?

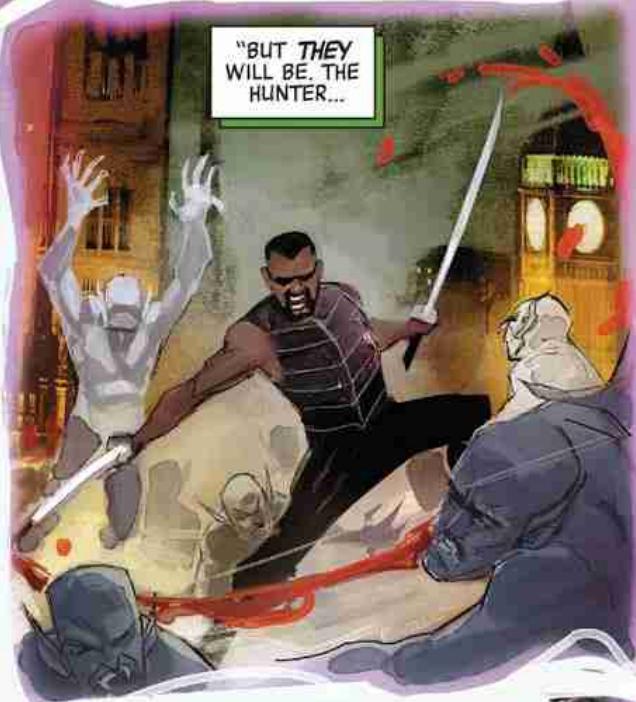
TO DEFEAT
HIM, WE WILL
NEED THE HELP
OF MANY--



--I WILL
CALL UPON
THE ONES
WHO HAVE
FACED
HIS KIND
BEFORE...

ALSO THE ONES
WHO KNOW
HOW TO BEAT
STUFF UP GOOD.
OOH, DO YOU
KNOW THE HULK?
YOU COULD
CALL HIM.
THAT'D BE
COOL.

HE WOULD
BE OF NO USE
TO US--



"BUT THEY
WILL BE THE
HUNTER..."



"...THE
KNIGHT..."



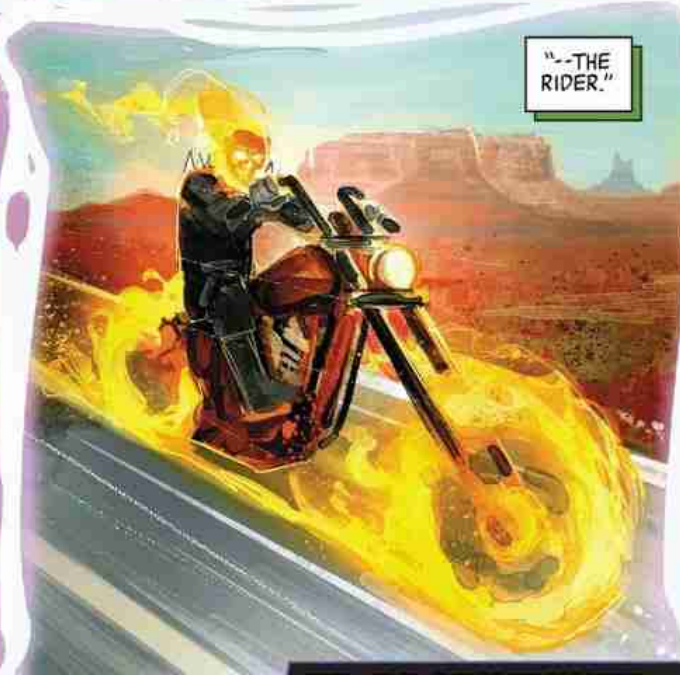
"...THE
SLAYER..."



"...THE
ORDER..."



"...THE FIST.
AND TO
LEAD THE
WAY--"



"--THE
RIDER."

TO BE CONTINUED...
HOTCOMIC.NET



WRITERS

NICK SPENCER & DONNY CATES

ARTIST

ROD REIS

LETTERER

VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM

COVER

ROD REIS

VARIANT COVERS

**PHIL NOTO; RON LIM & RACHELLE
ROSENBERG; JAVIER GARRÓN &
JASON KEITH [YOUNG GUNS];
GREG SMALLWOOD [CONNECTING];
JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER,
ALAN DAVIS, MARK FARMER
& WIL QUINTANA [TRADING CARD
AND INSERT ART]**

DESIGNERS

**JAY BOWEN &
ANTHONY GAMBINO**

ASSISTANT EDITOR

KATHLEEN WISNESKI

EDITOR

NICK LOWE

EDITOR IN CHIEF

C.B. CEBULSKI

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

JOE QUESADA

PRESIDENT

DAN BUCKLEY

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

ALAN FINE

DOCTOR STRANGE

CREATED BY

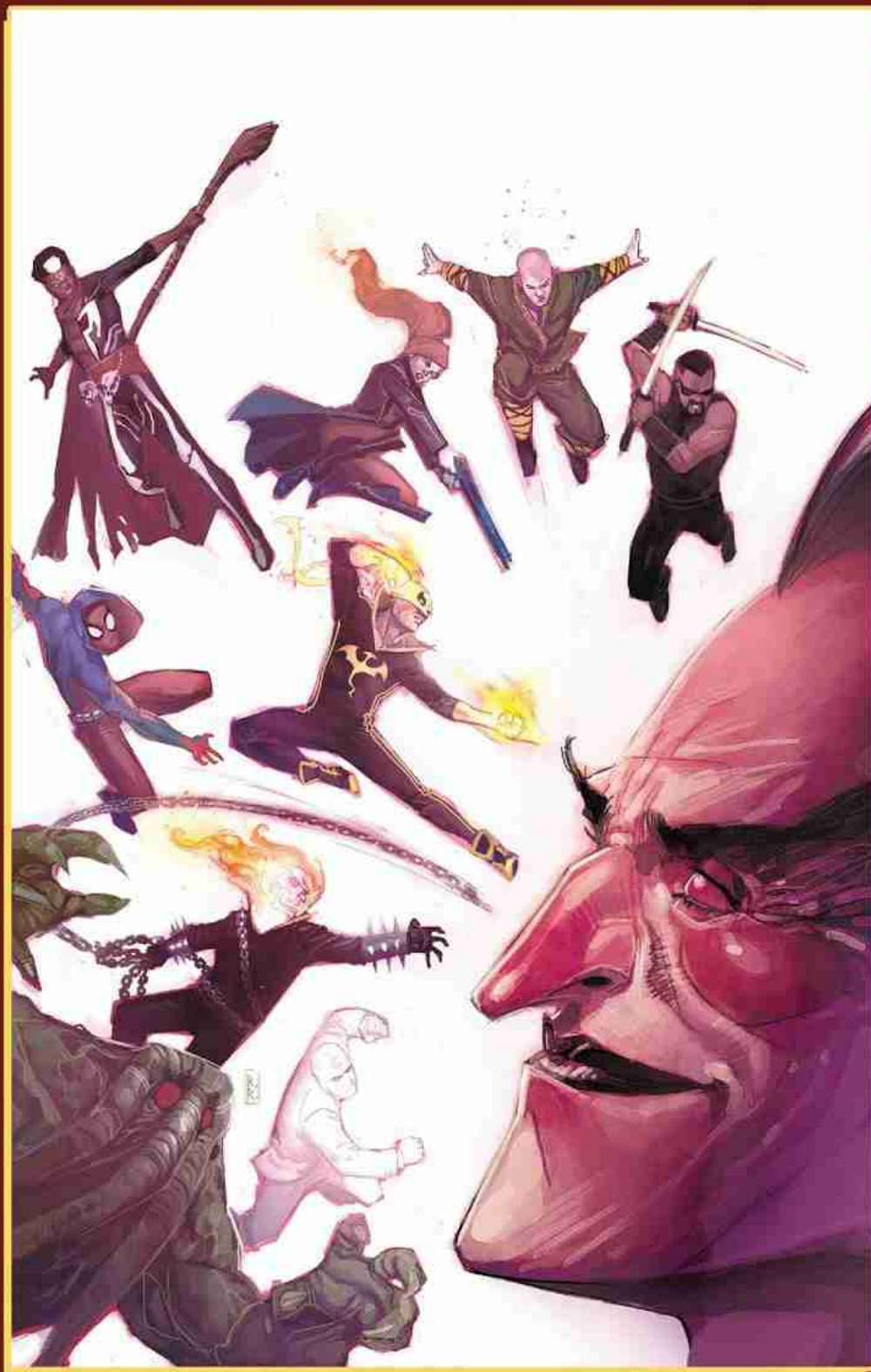
**STAN LEE &
STEVE DITKO**

HotComic.net

**FOLLOW THE ROAD TO DAMNATION NOW THROUGH APRIL IN THE PAGES OF
DOCTOR STRANGE: BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER; IRON FIST;
& DAMNATION: JOHNNY BLAZE GHOST RIDER**

DOCTOR STRANGE: DAMNATION 2

DOCTOR STRANGE 386



BEN REILLY: SCARLET SPIDER
15



DOCTOR STRANGE 387

